



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

2514 South I Road • Suite 4 • Edinburg, TX 78539

Phone: (956) 383-4928 • Fax: (956) 383-6088 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: October 20, 2005
Release Number TX 427.05

Contact Name: Elizabeth Garza
Telephone Number: (956) 383-4928
Email: Elizabeth.Garza@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN

EDINBURG, TEXAS, October 20, 2005-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced the University of Texas-Pan American received a \$228,536 Rural Cooperative Development Grant to fund the Texas Rural Cooperative Center. The Center will improve the economic condition of rural areas in the Texas/Mexico Border Region through cooperative development with a focus on providing assistance to small, Hispanic organizations through their cooperative businesses. To highlight this event, a ceremonial check will be presented to Bret Mann, Executive Director, and George Bennack, Associate Director of Business Development, University of Texas, Pan American.

“USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to provide assistance to rural areas in the Texas/Mexico Border Region,” said Daniel. “This grant will promote the support of cooperatives that directly impact small South Texas rural communities.”

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant program is administered through USDA Rural Development Business Programs. The grants are awarded to facilitate the creation or retention of jobs in rural areas through the development of new rural cooperatives, value-added processing and other rural businesses. The maximum award per grant is \$300,000 and matching funds are required.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information, or to find the office nearest you, please contact the Edinburg Local Office at (956)383-4928 or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).